

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DOE-15 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-01 NSC-05
SOE-02 SS-15 OES-07 /102 W
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2442
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02800

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: TSPA, UN, UR
SUBJECT: USSR-EASTERN EUROPEAN REMOTE SENSING TREATY

1. WE WISH TO CALL TO WASHINGTON'S ATTENTION UN DOC
A.33/162, A LETTER FROM USSR PERMREP TROYANOVSKY
TRANSMITTING TO THE UN FOR CIRCULATION TO MEMBER
STATES THE TEXT OF AN INTERNATIONAL "CONVENTION ON
THE TRANSFER AND USE OF DATA OF THE REMOTE SENSING
OF THE EARTH FROM OUTER SPACE", SIGNED IN MOSCOW
18 MAY 1978 BY 8 EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, NAMELY,
USSR, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, GDR, HUNGARY, MONGOLIA, POLAND,
ROMANIA AND CUBA.

2. APPARENT PURPOSE OF THE CONVENTION IS TO LAY DOWN
LEGAL BASIS FOR COOPERATION AMONG ABOVE MENTIONED
CONTRACTING PARTIES (AND ANY OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH
MAY LATER ADHERE) WITH RESPECT TO SHARING OF REMOTE
SENSING DATA, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, E.G., TRAINING
AND DEVELOPMENT OF RELEVANT ANALYTICAL AND
INTERPRETIVE SKILLS. US MAY WISH TO LOOK CLOSELY
AT THE TEXT OF THIS AGREEMENT. FROM THIS VANTAGE
A PRELIMINARY READING SUGGESTS FOLLOWING POINTS
OF INTEREST:

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- A. ART I DEFINITION OF TERMS INCLUDES
- DEFINITION OF PHRASE "REMOTE
- SENSING OF THE EARTH FROM OUTER
- SPACE" WHICH, SURPRISINGLY,
- INCLUDES NOT ONLY EARTH NATURAL
- RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT BUT ALSO

- "ANTHROPOGENIC OBJECTS AND FORMATIONS".
- SOVIET DEL PRIVATELY SAID THAT
- THIS WAS INTENDED TO INCLUDE
- OBJECTS AND FORMATIONS OF SIGNIFICANCE
- TO DEFENSE INCLUDING SHIPS, ETC.

- B. AS EXPECTED, THE CONVENTION CONTAINS
- NO REQUIREMENT FOR OBTAINING THE
- CONSENT OF A SENSED STATE BEFORE
- SENSING ACTIVITY TAKES PLACE.
- HOWEVER, WITH RESPECT TO
- DISSEMINATION OF SENSED INFORMATION,
- (I) ART IV SETS FORTH A REQUIREMENT
- THAT SENSING RESULTS EMPLOYING BETTER
- THAN A 50 METERS RESOLUTION CAPABILITY
- NOT BE DISCLOSED TO THIRD PARTIES
- UNTIL THE SENSED STATE HAS GIVEN ITS
- CONSENT, AND, IN ADDITION, (II)
- ART V REQUIRES SENSED STATE CONSENT
- FOR DISSEMINATION TO THIRD PARTIES OF
- "INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATURAL
- RESOURCES OR THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL"
- OF A SENSED STATE.

- C. THE CONVENTION CONTAINS A MODEST,
 - OUTER SPACE TREATY-BASED STATEMENT AS
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- TO THE LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY OF A
- CONTRACTING PARTY FOR NATIONAL
- ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF REMOTE
- SENSING.

- D. MANY PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION WILL
- DEPEND UPON SEPARATE, PRESUMABLY
- BILATERAL AGREEMENTS UNDER THE
- UMBRELLA OF THE CONVENTION TO GIVE
- IT MEANING. THUS, "THE SPECIFIC LIST,
- TECHNICAL PARAMETERS, (AND) THE VOLUME
- OF THE SAID DATA, THE TIME-TABLE OF
- THEIR RECEIPT AND CONDITIONS
- OF THE TRANSFER" OF DATA ARE TO BE
- DETERMINED THROUGH BILATERAL OR
- MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS (ART III).
- LIKewise, COOPERATION IN "TECHNICAL
- MEANS AND METHODS NECESSARY FOR TAKING
- MEASUREMENTS, THE PROCESSING AND
- THEMATIC INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA
- OBTAINED...AS WELL AS IN TRAINING
- APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL" ARE SUBJECT

- TO AGREEMENT ON A BILATERAL OR
- MULTILATERAL BASIS (ART VII), AS
- ARE QUESTIONS ARISING IN IMPLEMENTING
- THE CONVENTION (ART VIII, PARA 2).

3. THE 8-NATION CONVENTION IS SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION BY SIGNATORIES, WILL ENTER INTO FORCE AFTER FIVE SIGNATORIES HAVE RATIFIED INCLUDING THE USSR (WHICH ACTS AS DEPOSITARY), AND IS OPENED TO ACCESSION BY OTHER STATES. IN THE LAST REGARD, ART XI, PARA 1, SPECIFIES THAT "OTHER STATES SHARING THE PURPOSES

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AND PRINCIPLES OF THE CONVENTION MAY ACCEDE
TO THIS CONVENTION...." LEONARD

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